

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 8, 1899, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue. May 8th 1899. My dear Alec:

No word from you, not even a telegram since you reached home. I am beginning to feel a little worried about you, and more about our present for Elsie. I know that we can't afford anything for her when we are living on borrowed money, but her 21st birthday won't come again and she is of the age now when she ought to have fine things. I telegraphed to Star to send on some pins, and went to Galt's to look at rings. We brought home a large sapphire with two diamonds on each side \$450.00. Now I am sure Elsie would like it and that she would take care of it, because she values the rings she has and thinks a great deal of them. I do not however feel that I can give it to her without your approval, it is altogether too much money, and besides that I want it to be from you especially. You have always liked to give handsome things and this really is a beauty. I do hope that your telegram will come today. I will hold the ring until it does.

I have got up early this morning, at six, there seemed to many things to do about the garden party. Now I find it has been raining all night, and there is no sun now. It will be a shame if we can't have the party out doors for it would have been so pretty. In the middle of the grounds I am to have a very high Japanese tor?, from which lanterns will be suspended. From this will start festoons of lanterns in two rows to the tent where supper will be served. At the other end of the garden a tent will be 2 outlined in Japanese lanterns. Seats will be set around, and the whole lower floor given to dancing. That will make a beautiful lot of space for the dance.

We are all well, Daisy is working hard over her club paper, and we think it will be good. She will send you a copy. She is much interested and wants to accept McClure's the

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Outlooks offer to you of \$100.00 for a paper or wireless telegraphy. Of course you would have to patch it up enough for your signature, still she might be able to do well enough to be entitled to half proceeds. It's struck seven, my paper and news are at end and I do believe the sun is going to come out.

With very much love, Yours, Mabel.